

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 0116541Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7045

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1374

E.O. 11652: NOT DOWNGRADED FOR TEN YEARS

TAGS: PFOR, UK, EI

SUBJECT: REACTION TO LATEST NORTHERN IRELAND ATROCITY

1. IRISH MEDIA GIVING WIDE COVERAGE TO THE JULY 31 "BUSKILL MASSACRE" IN WHICH THREE MEMBERS OF A POPULAR IRISH MUSICAL GROUP WERE SHOT TO DEATH AND A FOURTH BADLY WOUNDED AS THEY WERE RETURNING TO DUBLIN FROM A NORTHERN IRELAND PERFORMANCE. DURING AFFAIR, WHICH INVOLVED THE PLANTING OF A BOMB, TWO OF THE KILLERS APPARENTLY BLEW THEMSELVES UP ACCIDENTALLY. PAPERS HERE REPORT THAT PROTESTANT PARAMILITARY UVF HAS TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY, APPARENTLY HAVING NO CHOICE AS ONE OF THE BLOWN-UP KILLERS HAD UVF TATTOO. SPECULATION HERE IS THAT KILLINGS WERE RETALIATION FOR KILLING OF THREE PORTADOWN PROTESTANTS EARLIER IN THE YEAR.

2. STATEMENTS DEPLORING THE INCIDENT WERE ISSUED BY LEADERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE OORDER, INCLUDING POLITICIANS AND A JOINT STATEMENT BY HEADS OF THE FOUR LEADING RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS. CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE JOINT STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTERS WILSON AND COSGRAVE

FROM HELSINKI--APPARENTLY THE FIRST SUCH JOINT STATEMENT EVER. HOWEVER, DESPITE THIS JOINT CONDEMNATION WE
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HEARD FROM A BRITISH EMBASSY SOURCE OF SOME IRRITATION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT THE BRITISH HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE GOI SUMMONING THEIR AMBASSADOR LATE YESTERDAY, AS WIDELY REPORTED, TO EXPRESS CONCERN, BUT THE IRISH ALSO ASKED ABOUT PRESS REPORTS THAT THE KILLERS HAD BEEN SUPPLIED UNIFORMS BY THE BRITISH ARMY. SINCE IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT UNIFORMS CAN BE BOUGHT IN ANY SURPLUS STORE, HMG'S AMBASSADOR THOUGHT THE QUESTION WAS OUT OF ORDER AND SO INFORMED THE IRISH. THIS SLIGHT IRRITANT IS NOT EXPECTED TO AFFECT ONGOING GOI/HMG COOPERATION.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY, CAUSED MAINLY BY THE FACT THAT THE VICTIMS WERE WELL KNOWN ENTERTAINERS, THE ONLY REAL REACTION WE FEEL HERE IS "JUST ANOTHER TRAGIC AND SENSELESS NORTHERN IRELAND KILLING." AS STATED BY THE IRISH TIMES: "THE FACT IS THAT THIS SMALL, DIVIDED, IMPOVERISHED AND UNDERPOPULATED NATION IS NOTORIOUS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD FOR ITS CASUAL ACCEPTANCE OF KILLING."
REND AHL

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NNN

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